



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN YELLOW RIBBON

This past weekend SDDVA's outreach team participated in the Air National Guard Yellow Ribbon post event for service members and their families. The event was held at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls.

Yellow Ribbons provide service members with a great opportunity to be briefed on such programs as healthcare, VA benefits, education benefits, and financial planning.

Vendors had the opportunity to showcase their programs during the "parade of stars," as well as have booth space and afforded the opportunity to visit one-on-one with attendees.

SDDVA Field Officer Michael Maske and South Dakota Joining Forces Director Erin Bultje provided a quick overview of the services SDDVA and SDJF provide for our heroes and their families.



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VA LAUNCHES TELEHEALTH PROGRAM FOR RURAL VETS WITH PTSD

With a focus on improving access to mental health care for veterans living in rural areas, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced it has launched a pilot telehealth program that will give rural veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) remote access to psychotherapy and related services.

The VA's Office of Rural Health, in partnership with VA's Quality Enhancement Research Initiative, is supporting the Telemedicine Outreach for PTSD (TOP) program to deliver therapy and other care through phone and interactive video contact.

"Our researchers have worked diligently in recent years to establish the safety and efficacy of PTSD psychotherapy delivered remotely, ensuring veterans will get the same quality of PTSD care as if they were in a doctor's office at a VA medical center," said VA Secretary David Shulkin. "We are excited to see this program help greater numbers of veterans living in rural areas and pleased that it will save them time and effort to get to a VA facility that is far from their homes."

Dr. John Fortney, a research health scientist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, Washington, is leading the project.

"Long travel distances to urban areas can be a major barrier to care for rural veterans," Fortney said. "In a prior trial, we were able to use telehealth technologies successfully to engage veterans in evidence-based, trauma-focused therapy without their having to travel to a distant VA medical center."

To date, more than 500 rural veterans who are not receiving specialty PTSD care have enrolled in the study. The participants may choose between the two main forms of evidence-based, trauma-focused psychotherapy used in VA: cognitive processing therapy and prolonged exposure therapy.

Veterans participating in the program receive frequent phone calls from a care manager who helps them access services provided by off-site psychiatrists and psychologists. The psychotherapy is delivered via interactive video from a VA medical center to a community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC) or to the Veteran's home. The telephone care manager also monitors the veterans' progress and helps them overcome barriers to care.

The program includes 12 CBOCs across the nation in Charleston, South Carolina; Iowa City, Iowa; Little Rock, Arkansas; Denver, Colorado; San Diego, California; and Seattle. The results, which will be available in 2020, will lay the groundwork for national implementation of the TOP program.

To learn more about VA research on PTSD, visit www.research.va.gov/topics/ptsd.cfm.



VA LAUNCHES LIGHTHOUSE LAB INITIATIVE

Shared at a key health-information and technology conference in Las Vegas on March 5, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of a “beta” version of its Lighthouse Lab, a computer platform offering software developers access to tools for creating mobile and web applications that will help veterans better manage their care, services and benefits.

The annual Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HiMSS) Conference, held March 5–9, attracts more than 45,000 professionals and featured VA Secretary David Shulkin as a keynote speaker.

“One of my top five priorities is to modernize our systems, and the announcement of the Lighthouse Lab supports the VA’s move toward adopting commercial off-the-shelf products,” said Shulkin, who discussed medical care for veterans, as well as changes and innovations at the VA. “Lighthouse represents the VA’s commitment to providing a digital experience in line with what veterans are getting from the private sector by rapidly bringing cutting-edge solutions into the VA that can help us accommodate our veterans’ unique needs.”

Considered the “front door” to the VA’s vast data stores, Lighthouse is the department’s application programming interface (API) management platform, and functions similar to a waiter’s role in a restaurant — the critical link communicating orders to the “kitchen.” For the VA, the kitchen is the system that will prepare the order then deliver it back to the waiter, or API.

The VA is seeking a small, initial-user group to begin building the Lighthouse Lab developer community. Participation will include helping to test APIs, building out documentation, developing governance standards and testing developer support workflows.

Lighthouse’s architecture supports the VA’s move toward adopting commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) products and innovative acquisition approaches, such as micro-purchasing agreements with a \$3,500 threshold for technology solutions that can be rapidly deployed to veterans. To that end, the VA is releasing three initial micro-purchasing request for proposals (RFP) on the Lighthouse Github repository and expects awards will be decided by the end of March. Micro-purchasing awards allow the VA to increase the number of contracts awarded to small businesses and diversify the development ecosystem at the VA. Later this spring, the VA will issue the next Lighthouse RFP.

VA Secretary Shulkin applauded CMS’ commitment to putting patients first and the launch of Blue Button 2.0, a software developer-friendly API similar to the VA’s Lighthouse Lab, that enables Medicare beneficiaries to connect their claims data to applications, services and research programs.

“We partnered on the original Blue Button and are partnering on Blue Button 2.0,” Shulkin said. “This will further allow a patient to access and share their health-care information, which will be of great value to Veterans and other citizens.”



MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN

As I pondered on what message to focus my column on this month, the word community kept bouncing into my thoughts. Webster defines community as a group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, shared common perspectives, and who engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings.

Communities have played a major role in all our veterans' lives. The individuals who form our communities are the ones who are there when our young men and women deploy, they are there to assist families when loved ones are serving, they are there when our heroes return from deployments, and they are there to help them adjust back into their civilian lives.

For communities, the opportunities to assist our veterans continue to grow. South Dakota Joining Forces is just one example. Joining Forces is an entity to identify all of the resources available for our military personnel, our veterans, and their families. It's our goal to have a one-stop-shop for these heroes to find the resources they may need. I encourage you to visit <http://sdjf.sd.gov/> to learn more about this great program; scroll to the right and click on "contact us". Get your community involved by identifying all the wonderful resources you have to assist this elite group of heroes.

Benjamin Disraeli once said, "The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example." As a community, it is important that we capture the history from our heroes. Each of us knows of or has a veteran in our life, so I encourage you to take time to sit down and talk with them - capture their legacy and remind them of the difference they have made in their community and their country.

Many of the men and women who served this great country were often children when they went off to war; young men and women that were thrown into hellacious predicaments that robbed them of their youth and innocence.

I have shared my father's military story of serving four plus years in New Guinea with my daughters; as well as the story of my mother who prayed and waited patiently for his safe return. I remember at age 85 he still loved to proudly wear his army uniform to VFW events in his community.

Capturing these stories is a gift for our children and their children. Each of us can help document these stories for family, friends and veterans in our community. There are so many valuable lessons to be learned and collected. As a community, I encourage you to get involved and help secure these heroes' stories.



Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

"Honoring our Veterans"



The American Legion Family



THIRD ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION BALL

A Special Salute to our WWII Veterans

Hosted by The Spearfish American Legion Family Post 164

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Spearfish Holiday Inn

Doors open at 6:00 PM;

Ceremony 6:30 PM

Dinner and Dance - Open to the Community

Formal or Business Attire - \$25.00 Adults; \$10 Children



SPONSORS

Black Hills Community Bank - Spearfish GMC-Cadillac

Black Hills Monument - Spearfish Pioneer Bank & Trust

Ron Schuttler, Doug Henwood, Eldon Lerwick

Purchase or Reserve your tickets by March 12; credit card accepted

Daytime contact: Donice at 850-241-2819 and Evening contact: Mike at 605-641-4357

2018 R.E.D VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED



The USD Student Veteran Resource Center and American Legion Wallace Post 1 present the inaugural R.E.D. Volleyball Tournament. All proceeds will be donated to Wallace Post 1 to assist with the American Legion's 100th Anniversary Celebration to be hosted in Vermillion, South Dakota next year.

Date: April 15, 2018 at 8:30 am

Registration Closes: April 2, 2018

Entry Fee: \$10/player - up to 8 players on roster

Location: Vermillion High School

Limit to 24 teams

Pool play followed by tournament play

For any questions or for an electronic copy of this form, please email Joseph.Knoer@usd.edu



Rules

- 6 on 6 co-ed
- 3 males and 3 females during play
- One touch rule – if two males touch the ball on a set, one female must also touch the ball
- Players call touches/nets
- Two games to 25 in pool play, win by two
- Teams will be seeded based off wins. Tie breaker will be decided by points scored, then points allowed.
- Tournament play best 2 out of 3 wins by two, with the 3rd game played to 15.
- Double Elimination tournament play
- 5 min warmup for first match, after that there will be a rolling schedule
- Teams are to rate themselves on a 1 to 10 scale. 1 being recreational, 10 being competitive.

Team Name: _____

Team Rating: _____

Roster

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

Door Prizes/Raffles

Admission is \$1 for a raffle ticket that goes to a 50/50 drawing
5 years old and under are free

Concessions will be provided on site
Outside food and drink are welcomed
VHS is an alcohol and tobacco free zone

Checks Payable to: American Legion Post 1
Mail Check and Team Roster to: Joseph Knoer
Center for Continuing Education Building, Room 118B
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to fully participate, please contact Disability Services at 605-677-6389, 48 hours before the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018

Mar 9—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Mar 13—VABHHCS Veteran Town Hall and Outreach—Newcastle Senior Center—8:00 am (MT)
Mar 13—VABHHCS Veteran Town Hall and Outreach—Sundance Senior Center—1:00 pm (MT)
Mar 22—Veterans Legal Services—Watertown National Guard Armory—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
Mar 23—Veterans Legal Services—Sioux Falls DAV—9:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
Apr 18—Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Apr 27-29—DAV State Convention—The Lodge—Deadwood
May 11—AHEC Improving Veterans Care Conference—University Center—Sioux Falls
May 11—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs —10:00 am (MT)
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls
Jul 12—Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Cemetery Grand Opening—Sisseton—11:00 am (CT)
Jul 13 —VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Education Classroom—Fort Meade—10:00 am (MT)
Jul 14-17—DAV National Convention—Reno, NV
Jul 21-25—VFW National Convention—Kansas City, MO
Jul 26—VABHHCS Veterans Town Hall—Post 8 American Legion—Pierre
Aug 20-24—SDDVA Benefits School—Ramkota—Pierre
Aug 24-30—American Legion National Convention—Minneapolis, MN
Sept 14—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—VFW Post 1273—Rapid City—10:00 am (MT)
Oct 10—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—Soldiers and Sailors Building—Pierre—8:00 am (CT)
Nov 16—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs —10:00 am (MT)



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